

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A side impact airbag system for a vehicle including a system housing defining an interior space and arranged on a side of the vehicle alongside at least a portion of a passenger compartment of the vehicle. One or more airbags are arranged in the interior space of the system housing such that when inflating, the airbag(s) is/are expelled from the system housing into the passenger compartment. An inflator is arranged at least partially within the interior space of the system housing for inflating the airbag(s). A crash sensor, preferably an electronic crash sensor, initiates inflation of the airbag(s) via the inflator upon a determination of a crash requiring inflation of the airbag(s). The crash sensor includes a sensor housing arranged within and/or proximate to the system housing, and a sensing mass arranged in the sensor housing to move relative to the sensor housing in response to accelerations of the sensor housing resulting from the crash into the first side of the vehicle. Upon movement of the sensing mass in excess of a threshold value, the crash sensor initiates the inflator means to inflate the airbag(s).